

**Dear Members,**

I AM PLEASED that we are able to present our next full Newsletter thanks to the interesting articles submitted by Phil and Sue Stepney, Robin Bryant and David Hope. The club continues its programme of talks via Zoom and monthly Digital Competitions.

Please let me have details of any photographic related items you wish to pass on or sell. As mentioned before there is an unused, brand new Vanguard Voyager 36 camera bag for a small donation to charity and a free 62mm CP filter.

*Diana Wyss - Secretary* 📷

**ZOOM MEETING**  
**9th February at 8pm**  
**"The Kingdom of the Ice Bear"**  
 by Bob Johnson ARPS

READ MORE ABOUT Bob and view his images by searching for [rps.org>kingdom of the ice bear](https://www.rps.org/kingdom-of-the-ice-bear) This is not a hyper link. 📷

**Website**

<https://mocolos.wixsite.com/website-2>

DO TAKE TIME to look at our website which displays all you wish to know regarding competition titles, results, judges comments and forthcoming talks. 📷

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**DIGITAL COMPETITIONS**

Entries to [alfbutler33@gmail.com](mailto:alfbutler33@gmail.com)

- February – Winter Scenes**
- March – Curves**
- April – Water** 📷

# Our travels in an **RV IN AMERICA**

by Sue and Phil Stepney



*Our 'Minnie Winnie'*

OUR SON HAS lived in America since 1999. In 2004 we took the plunge and bought an RV which we could store at Paul's house, then in Connecticut, and travel some of America during our holidays.

For 7 years we travelled out there a couple of times a year and mainly explored the Eastern states. When we had both retired we decided to make more of an adventure of it and from 2012 we started 3 major tours driving from East to West on and off route 66, around the West and North West covering some major

national parks, and finally from West to East tracing the Great Lakes. We found a good location to store our RV between tours in Las Vegas, easy to get to with all the amenities we required.

I have promised Diana that I will do a brief write up of our adventures serialised over the next 3 months. These will be brief snippets with photographic illustrations of our adventures. For those interested in gear these images were shot on either a Canon 5D mk 2 or a Canon G10.

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*Sitting alongside a statue of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield.*



*The Gateway Arch in St Louis from the Mississipi and yes you can go to the top of the arch.*



*The Giant Rocking Chair near Fanning.*



*Old Truck made to resemble Mater from the film Cars or did Mater get based on this old truck?*

## **Part 1 - 2014 From Plainfield, Connecticut to San Diego and back to Las Vegas**

This journey is split into 3 parts, route 66, National Parks, and San Diego.

We joined route 66 in Springfield, Illinois and the road in which the Abe Lincoln House stands joins route 66. As you may guess Springfield is full of Lincoln memorabilia and the house itself seems quite ordinary. In the out house there are 3 different size wooden

pans, one for Abe, one for his wife and another for the child (a bit like the 3 bears).

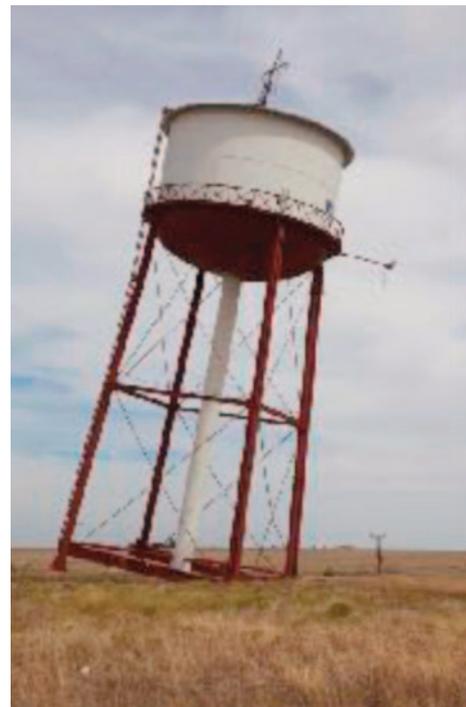
The Gateway Arch also known as the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial was built as a tribute to the pioneers heading to the West in the 1800's. Jefferson thought it would take 1,000 generations of Americans to complete the expansion, it took just 90 years.

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***Quirky roadside attractions The Blue Whale, The Cadillac Ranch, and The Leaning Water Tower.***

We saw many strange roadside attractions along route 66 , the worlds largest rocking chair at 42 feet tall, although I understand there is now a chair in Austria which is 98 feet. Lots of old cars, trucks, motels, gas stations, a barbed wire museum, a totem pole park, a model of a giant blue whale, the Cadillac ranch where old Cadillacs are planted in a field, the bug ranch (like the Cadillacs but Volkswagon Beetles), the worlds largest cross, etc, etc...



***A more sombre monument in Oklahoma City. Each chair here represents one of the 168 people who lost their lives in the terrorist bombing of the federal building here in 1995.***

***Continued p5***

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In addition to the strange attractions we visited some lovely cities rich in cultural heritage such as Albuquerque and Santa Fe. We stayed in Albuquerque for 3 nights and took a train to Santa Fe.

he journey took us through A Pueblo reservation and an announcement was made on the train that we were not permitted to take pictures, not a tourist train, just a

regular journey. The guard wandered through the train to make sure we had complied. It was interesting to see the relative simple lifestyle followed by these people including outdoor ovens.

We were also lucky to visit some national parks, Monument Valley, The Mesa Verde, Grand Canyon and Lake Powell (Glen Canyon) and Joshua Tree.



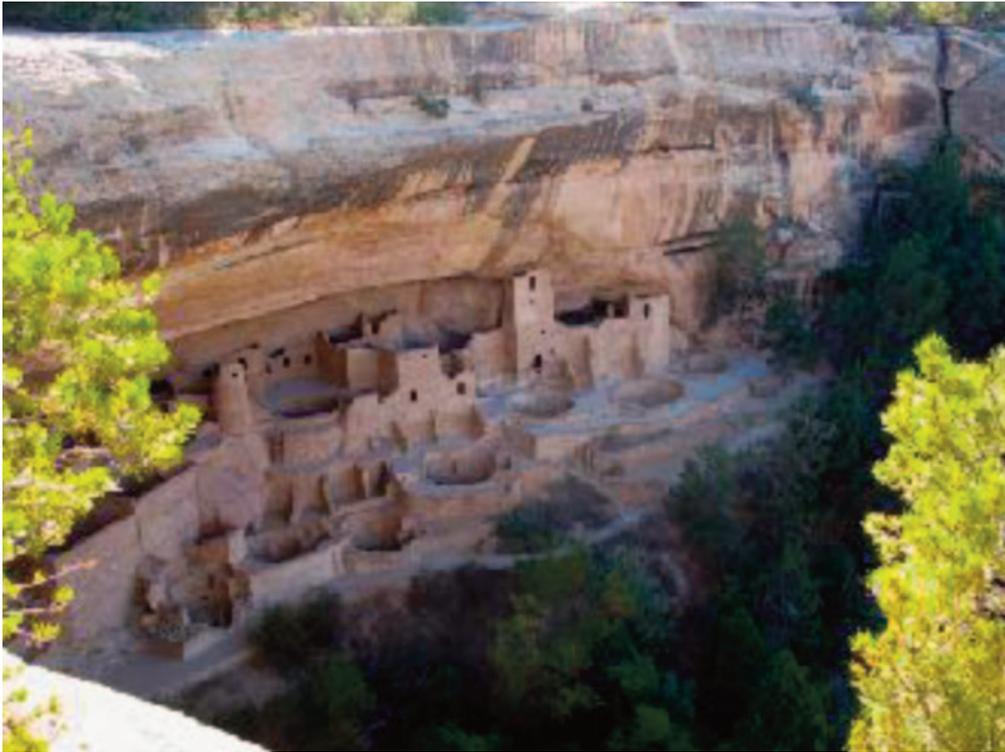
*Monument Valley.*



*Joshua Tree National Park.*



*The Old Church Santa Fe.*



Mesa Verde National Park was created in 1906 to preserve the archeological heritage of the Ancestral Puebloans. It is most famous for its cliff dwellings which were mainly built between 1190 and 1270 although Puebloans were in the area from 600ad and started to build houses above ground in 750ad.

We were able to go down into the cliff dwellings with a guide but this also involved climbing ladders up to 37 feet in height and crawling through holes not much wider than our body size! It was an amazing place to visit and one which many travellers miss.



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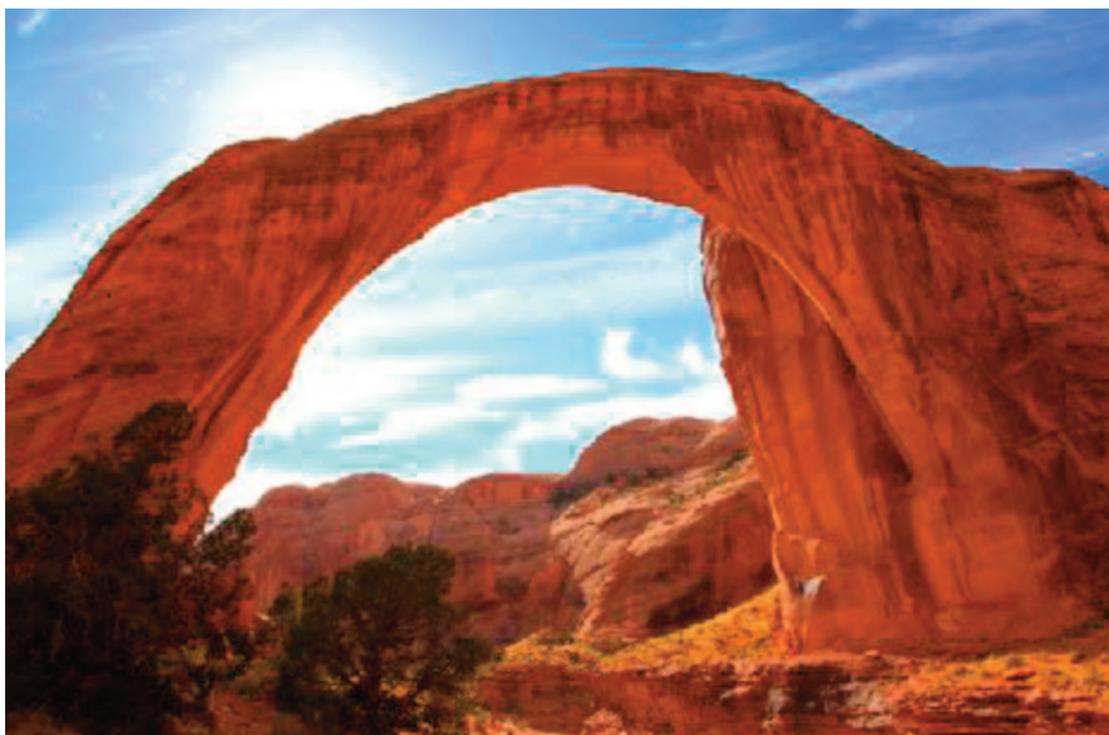


Glen Canyon was another park we found fascinating. An early morning boat trip on Lake Powell took us to Rainbow Bridge, at 275ft across and 290ft high it is the worlds

largest natural bridge (nearly as tall as the Statue of Liberty). It is sacred to around 5 Native American tribes and visitors are asked not to walk on or under the bridge.



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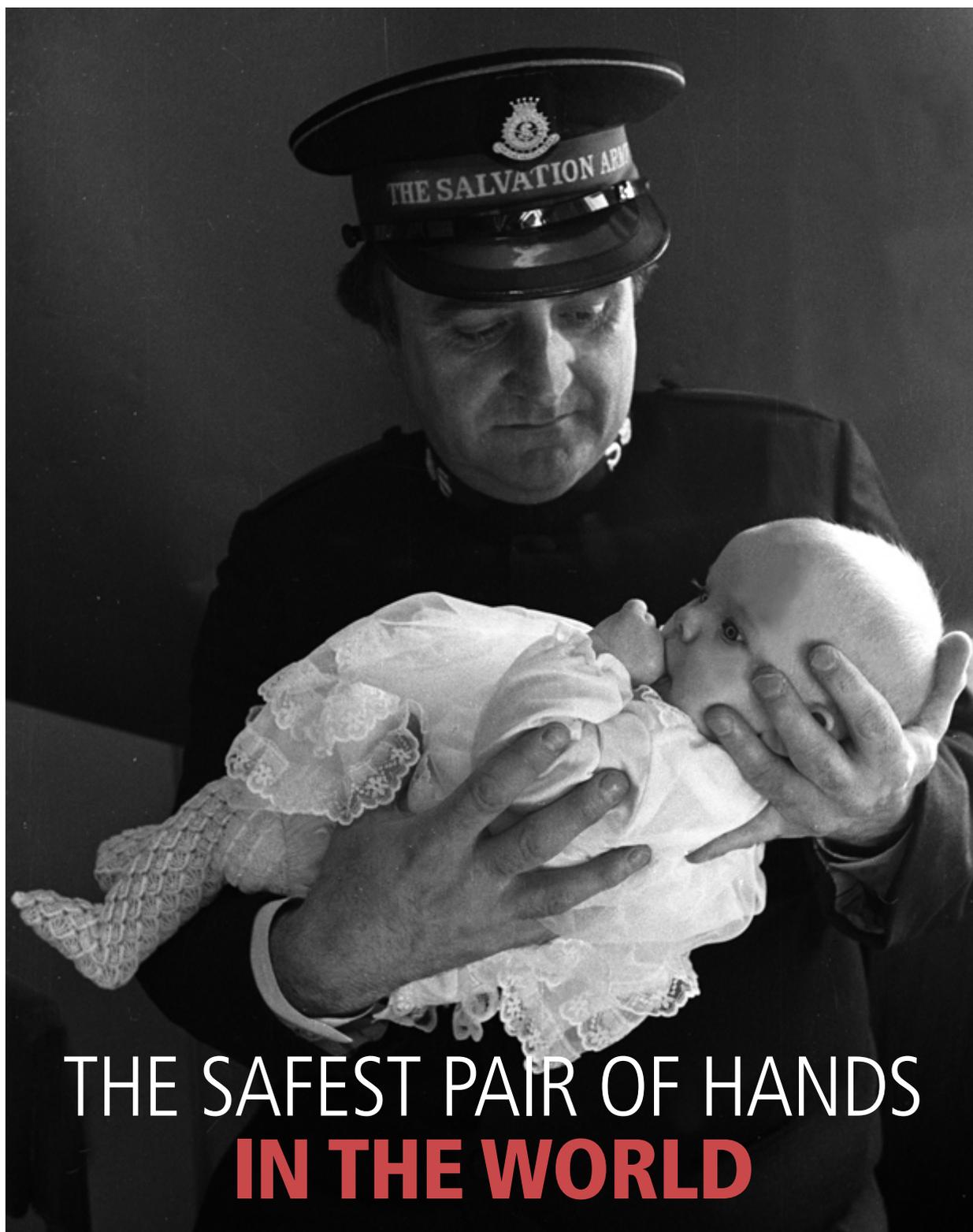
*Rainbow Arch, Glen Canyon.*

Our trip, before diving back to store the RV in Las Vegas, concluded in San Diego, a town with a lovely mix of old and new, Hispanic

and American, and relaxation and adventure. Great way to end the first stage of our adventure. 📷



*New and Old San Diego.*



## THE SAFEST PAIR OF HANDS **IN THE WORLD**

A SALVATIONIST WAS standing in Regent Street in 1982. She was standing with a collecting box accepting donations from the kind public for the international work of The Salvation Army.

One kind gentleman came up and popped a note in the box. He happened to be the

compiler and author of that years UK edition of the official FIFA World Cup Programme.

As he walked away he thought 'I have a page left in the programme to fill, I must quickly offer this to a charity for an advert. Why don't I contact The Salvation Army'? Next day a call was put through to The Salvation Army



done. We found the officer, he worked in our Property Department. I just had to find this baby!! I made many phone calls and finally found that one had been born recently to a young lady Salvationist in Croydon, and she was prepared to bring the baby up to my studio the next morning.

So the picture was taken, the quote was inserted, the logo and a one-sentence copy added, and it was sent off to the editor.

We were all so thrilled when we discovered that they had given us the back page for our advert! All this because a young Salvationist was standing quietly in Regent Street collecting for our annual appeal.

Good hey!! Robin. 📷

International Headquarters in Queen Victoria Street. It was received by our Public Relations Department. The gentleman said I could offer you a full page for an advert, but I must have the copy by tomorrow evening!! So, a few of us got together and suggested ideas.

One employee said 'well it is often said about a goalkeeper that he has the safest pair of hands in the world, what about getting an Army officer with big hands to have his picture taken holding a tiny baby, it would reflect our social work around the world'?

It was agreed! My job was to try and find a baby, a tiny baby quickly!! Easier said than



# MY CAMERAS PART 3

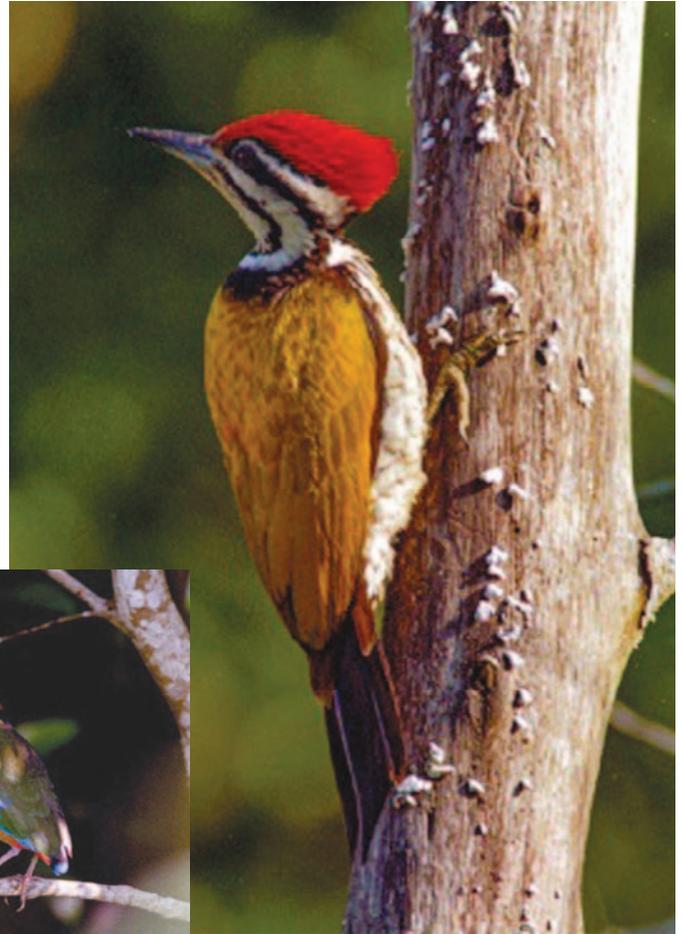
by David Hope

THERE IS A HUGE diversity of fauna in Malaysia each presenting its own challenge to the photographer. Two denizens of the wilderness, a Lesser Goldenback (a woodpecker) and a Mangrove Pitta.

I shot the woodpecker from a tree hide; you had to keep very still to avoid spooking any wildlife. I had to walk into the mangrove to capture this shot of a Mangrove Pitta in subdued light. Both taken with the 400mm lens hand held, I propped the camera against a tree trunk in both cases.

The Macaque sitting in a tree with an overhead canopy I shot with the 400mm lens and on camera flash, lucky. The two hornbills were in a tree opposite my house, again with an overhead canopy, using a tripod and 400mm lens. An interesting story goes with the moth and the beetle.

Early morning I was contacted to quickly get to the radar site and bring my camera. Walking up the ramp to the radar in its dome you could not avoid



treading upon some insect. Apparently the engineers had mistakenly left the double doors to the radar dome open over night and the inside lights were left on. This acted as a beacon to attract hundreds of insects. 📷

